

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-5 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims. Claims 2, 3, and 5 have been amended to clarify that these claims further define particular segments of the weatherstrip of claim 1. Because the claims are in open "comprising" format, they are broad enough to read on the segment recited alone and that segment in combination with other components. Claim 2 has been amended to read in the conjunctive, and new claim 19 is claim 2 in the alternative. Claim 5 has also been amended by changing "plane" to "planar," as suggested in the office action. Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the "root" is that recited in claim 9. Claim 15 has been amended to read in the conjunctive. New claim 20 is former claim 15 in the alternative. Claim 16 has been clarified. Claim 18 has been amended to clarify the dependence on claim 1 and to use the phraseology of claim 17. With regard to claim 18, the description of a single-flange type is believed to be definite because that describes a type of door frame as explained in the specification at page 7.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 as unpatentable over Ahlfeld or Ahlfeld in view of Bright or Andrzejewski is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that the examiner has misconstrued the Ahlfeld patent and that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have understood Ahlfeld to show or suggest the claimed invention.

Initially, it is noted that the claims recite a weatherstrip forming a slideway, whereas Ahlfeld is a weatherseal and not a slideway.

Furthermore, while the examiner reads Ahlfeld to teach a clip 34 reinforced by reinforcing elements 32 and 62, it is submitted that Ahlfeld instead teaches a clip 36 that is reinforced by a U-shaped carrier 34. Further, it is submitted that backbone strips 32 and 62 cannot reinforce the carrier 34 because they are not connected to the carrier in a manner that would allow them to do so. Backbone strips 32 and 62 are longitudinally incompressible elements mounted in the elastomeric body 36 and specifically designed to prevent longitudinal compression of body 36. Thus, the backbone strips are mounted in a common elastomeric body with the carrier 34 and reinforce the body 36 instead of

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the carrier because they are movable with respect to the carrier by virtue of the elastomeric property of the body 36.

Thus, in fact, Ahlfeld can teach no more than the clip shown in figure 1 of the instant application. It does not teach a slideway and does not teach a clip as recited in the claims wherein the reinforcing elements are in only the jaws, the web, or a jaw and the web.

Neither Bright not Andrzejewski contains any teaching that meets any of the deficiencies noted above.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of such is respectfully requested.

All necessary extensions of time are hereby requested. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,240.00 for a two-month extension of time (\$450.00) and the RCE filing fee (\$790.00). Please charge any deficiency and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
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